



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo), Explosions

Brazzaville

Other Threat / Incident

Africa > Congo, Republic of the > Brazzaville

3/14/2012

This is the fifth update: The U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville reminds all Congo-based U.S. citizens to keep personal safety in the forefront of your planning. On Sunday, March 4, a series of explosions at a munitions depot at Regiment Blinde, a military barracks located in Mpila neighborhood, killed over 200 people and collapsed homes and buildings. The explosions led to the distribution of a heavy concentration of unexploded munitions within an area of one kilometer from the blasts' epicenter, with some additional munitions traveling possibly as far as a few kilometers.

Currently, there are approximately 15,000 displaced people living in eight temporary sites throughout Brazzaville who are in need of supplies and sanitary improvements. The Government of the ROC (GROC) is under increasing pressure to compensate those affected by the blast. There have been local newspaper reports of widespread dissatisfaction with the GROC's response thus far.

The damage from the explosions and large numbers of people left homeless may impact the security situation in Brazzaville. Although the security situation in Brazzaville currently remains unchanged, it has the potential to deteriorate in the coming weeks and should be monitored closely. The U.S. Embassy reminds all U.S. citizens to remain vigilant and to use caution when traveling throughout the city. Avoid the Mpila neighborhood and stay away from objects that resemble unexploded munitions. Travel by vehicle in Brazzaville, avoid walking, if possible, and avoid areas around the sites where displaced people are gathering.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Brazzaville website. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you do not have Internet access, we have a call center for updates--1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or from other countries on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except federal holidays).



The U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville encourages U.S. citizens to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program for the most up-to-date security information. Keep all of your information in STEP up to date by maintaining your current phone numbers and email addresses where you can be reached in case of an emergency. U.S. citizens may also download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App to have travel information at their fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy is located on Boulevard Denis Sassou Nguesso across from the Blanche Gomez Maternity Hospital. The Consular Section is open Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and on Fridays from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The Consular section can be reached via e-mail at BrazzavilleACS@state.gov, and our daytime telephone number is (+242) 06 612-2046.

For after-hours emergencies, call (+242) 04 444-0013.